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Scooby-Doo™

#6

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ZOINKS, GANG! LIKE, I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT!
SHAGGY, YOU CAN'T BACK OUT NOW! YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED ME TO FIND YOUR LONG-LOST COUSIN ON THE INTERNET--
--AND THIS "STETSON ROGERS" COULD BE HIM!
THE MYSTERY MACHINE

VELMA'S RIGHT, SHAGGY. AT LEAST INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND SEE WHAT STETSON ROGERS SAYS.
SURE, FRED - BUT, LIKE, I DON'T KNOW IF I WANT TO KNOW!

I CAN'T LOOK--
LAZY I RANCH
GREETIN'S, STRANGERS! WELCOME TO THE LAZY I DUDE RANCH!
SCOOBY-DOO
-IN- GHOST RIDERS IN DISGUISE
WRITER: MATT WAYNE ARTIST: ERNIE COLÓN
LETTERER: CLEM ROBINS COLORIST: TRICIA MULVIHILL
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WELL, FRY MY HIDE!

ZOINKS! NO RESEMBLANCE AT ALL!

STETSON ROGERS? MY NAME IS FRED JONES. THIS IS VELMA, DAPHNE--

--AND THIS IS SHAGG - THAT IS, NORVILLE ROGERS!

NORVILLE!? WELL, BUST MY BRONCO!

I RAN AWAY TO JOIN THE RO-DAY-O WHEN YOU WAS KNEE-HIGH TO A PRAIRIE OYSTER!

RETSON!

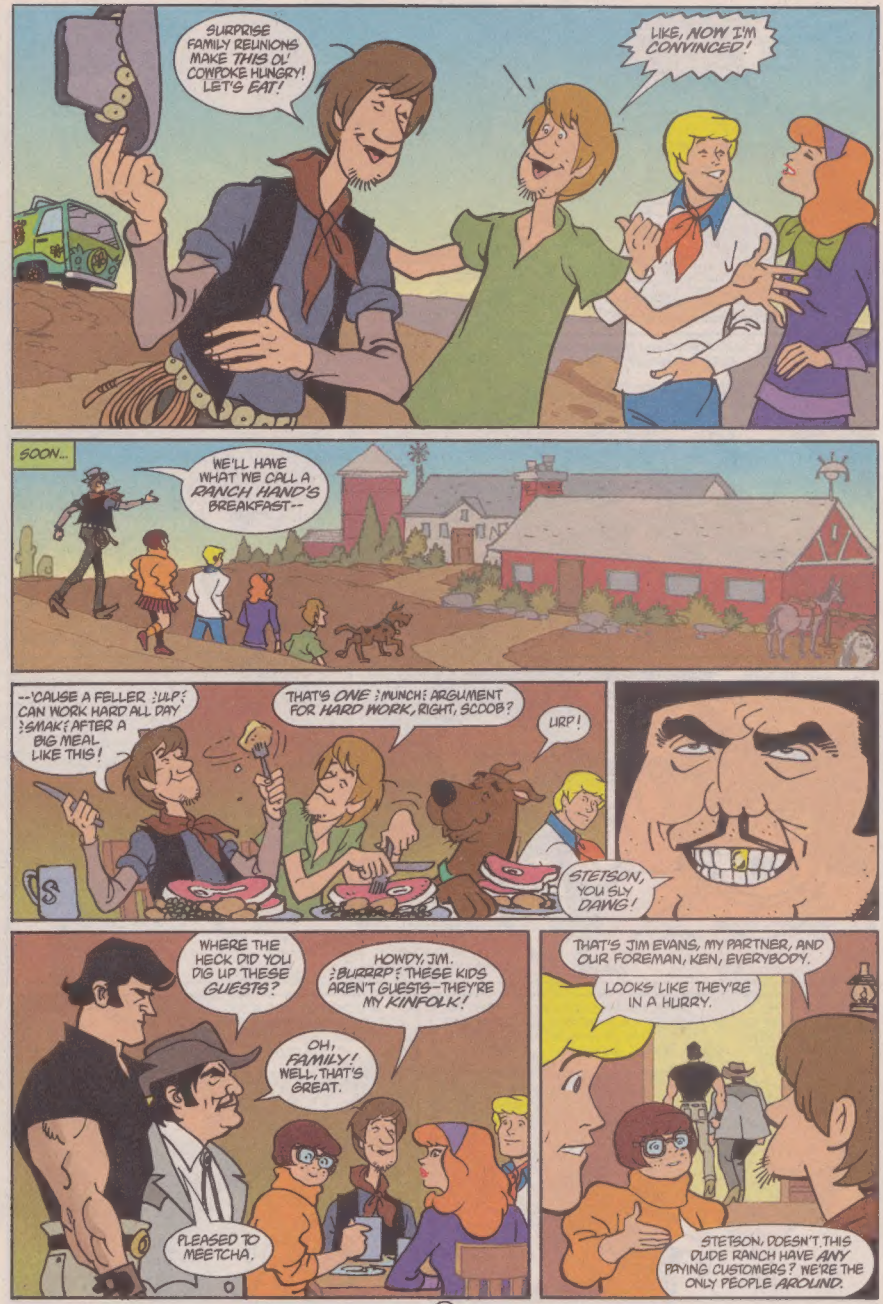
WELL, CREAM MY SPINACH! I REMEMBER YOU! YOU'RE THAT LI'L PUP NAMED SCOOBY-DOO!

ROOBEE ROO!

TEE-HEE!

WELL, SHAGG? ARE YOU CONVINCED?

NOT YET.


SURPRISE FAMILY REUNIONS MAKE THIS OL' COWPOKE HUNGRY! LET'S EAT!
LIKE, NOW I'M CONVINCED!
SOON...
WE'LL HAVE WHAT WE CALL A RANCH HAND'S BREAKFAST--
--'CAUSE A FELLER ;ULP; CAN WORK HARD ALL DAY ;SMAK; AFTER A BIG MEAL LIKE THIS!
THAT'S ONE ;MUNCH; ARGUMENT FOR HARD WORK, RIGHT, SCOOB?
LIRP!
STETSON, YOU SLY DAWG!
WHERE THE HECK DID YOU DIG UP THESE GUESTS?
HOWDY, JIM. ;BURRRP; THESE KIDS AREN'T GUESTS--THEY'RE MY KINFOLK!
OH, FAMILY! WELL, THAT'S GREAT.
PLEASED TO MEETCHA.
THAT'S JIM EVANS, MY PARTNER, AND OUR FOREMAN, KEN, EVERYBODY.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE IN A HURRY.
STETSON, DOESN'T THIS DUDE RANCH HAVE ANY PAYING CUSTOMERS? WE'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE AROUND.

WELL, SEE, THE *GHOSTS* KEEP SCARING THE CUSTOMERS AWAY!

GHOSTS?!?

MAN, LIKE DON'T THINK IT HASN'T BEEN A GAS-EVEN IF IT *HASN'T*-BUT--

SHAGGY, WE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE FOR *YOU*--

--WE MISSED THE *HANSON* CONCERT IN DENVER--

--AND WE'RE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A *MYSTERY!* NO *WAY* ARE WE LEAVING NOW!

WE'D LIKE TO HELP YOU GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. CAN WE STAY UNTIL WE CATCH THE GHOSTS?

I'D BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU STAY, BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GONNA CATCH THESE SPOOKS--

--THEY'RE JUST TOO DURN *SPOOKY.*

GHOST OR NO GHOST, I CAN'T RUN OUT ON MY OWN COUSIN--

--AT LEAST, NOT WHILE THE KITCHEN'S STILL OPEN! LET'S EXAMINE THIS FOOD FOR *CLUES!*

WAL, CRUSH MY VELVET! THAT'S A PLAN, NORVILLE!

ONE PAINFULLY LARGE MEAL LATER...

OF ALL THE THINGS THERE ARE TO *DO* AT A DUDE RANCH, I STILL LIKE TRAIL RIDING *BEST*! AFTER EATING, I MEAN.

YOU KNOW, STETSON, WE *HAVE* CAUGHT A *LOT* OF GHOSTS BEFORE.

SON, YOU SHOULDN'T JOKE ABOUT THE DEPARTED. LETS JUST ENJOY MY *VIEW*, WHILE I STILL *GOT* IT.

I WISH VELMA AND SHAGGY COULD SEE THIS.

LOOK! THERE THEY ARE!

SEEN ANY GHOSTS YET?

I *TOLD* YOU, I'M LOOKING FOR A *BIRD*! THIS AREA'S *FULL* OF WILDLIFE!

OF COURSE, IF I JUST HAPPEN TO SPOT ANY *CLUES*--

--WAIT! THERE'S ONE!

A *CLUE*?

NO, A *BIRD*! A WESTERN MEADOWLARK!

A STURNELLA NEGLECTA, NORVILLE! YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHO'S OUT THERE WITH IT!!

CALL ME "SHAGGY," OKAY? THAT OTHER NAME, LIKE, CHAFES ME NOW.

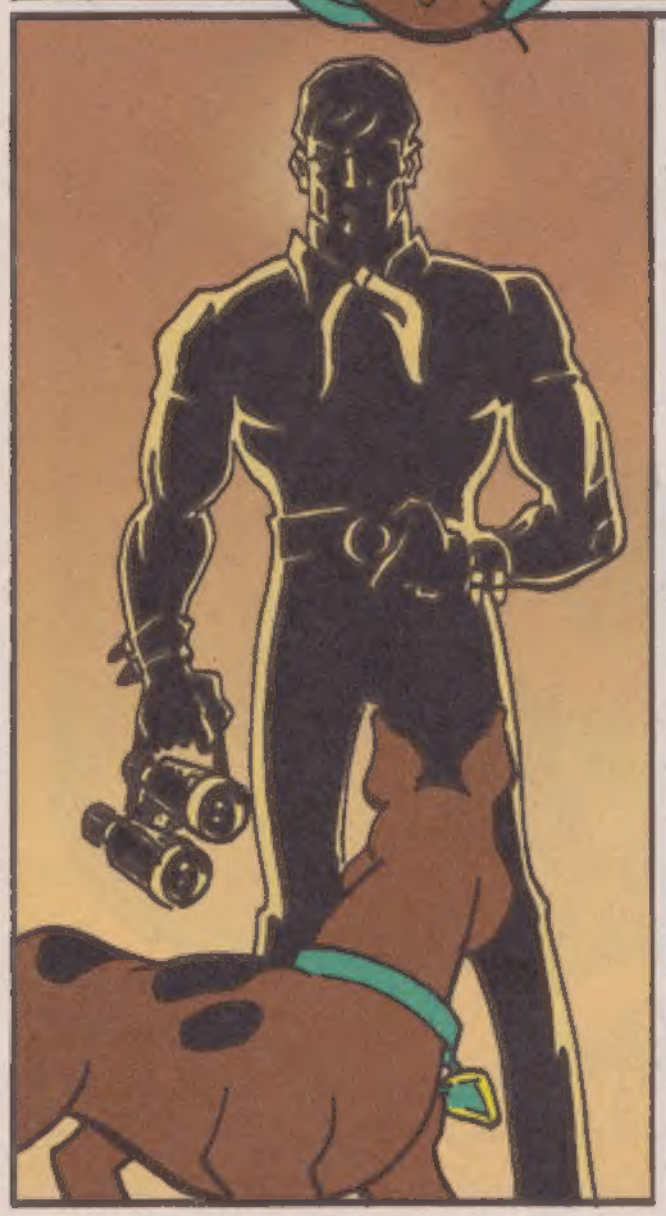
ZOINKS! GUESS OL' SCOOBY'S A BIRD DOG, HUH?

RRRR-- REAT IT!

YEAH ...BEAT IT!

?

HRMF?



YIPE!

ZOOM!

YOU THINK COUSIN *STETSON'S* TELLING FRED AND DAPHNE WHAT'S UP?

YOU MEAN ABOUT A DUDE RANCH WITH NO DUDES?

WELL, SO FAR WE DON'T HAVE ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF GHOSTS OR MOTIVE FOR A CRIME. WITHOUT STETSON'S EXPLANATION--

--WE'RE PRETTY *CLUELESS*--

SLAM!!

--OOF!

WHINNNNNNNNNE! RAGGY! RIRAWRARARRYAN!

MMMPHF!

WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU, SCOOB? I MEAN, LIKE, *I'M* SCARED OF BIRDS, BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE COOL WITH IT.

I THINK SCOOBY *SAW* SOMETHING.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH...

HYAHH!

DAPHNE, YOU'RE A *NATURAL!* JUST THIS *ONE* LESSON, AND I BET YOU COULD ROPE A *LIVE* STEER FAST AS *ANY* RANCH HAND!

THE *SECRET*, FREDDY, IS STAYING *ON* THE HORSE.

SHE'S GOT YOU THERE, BOY! *HAW!*

OOOH! I NEED AN *ASPIRIN!*

VELMA! WHAT HAPPENED?

HERE YA ARE, MISS! A *GREAT DANE* LIKE SCOOBY PACKS QUITE A WALLOP!

KEN, YOU JUST MADE MY DAY!

POP

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE.

I'M SURE I WILL.

HEY VELMA! WHAT ABOUT THE *MYSTERY?*

DON'T MIND OL' *KEN*, NORVILLE. I STILL GOT SOME TRICK-RIDING TO SHOW YOU, THEN WE'LL LEARN THE TEXAS TWO-STEP--

--*THEN* WE'LL GET US A GENU-WINE CHUCK-WAGON *DINNER*. WATTA YA SAY, PARDNER?

WELL, ZOINK MY HIDE.

LATER.

LET'S COMPARE NOTES, SHAGGY--

--STETSON THINKS THE PLACE IS HAUNTED, AND WON'T SAY WHY. EITHER HE'S SUPERSTITIOUS OR TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING.

WHAT DOES VELMA *SEE* IN THAT GUY? LIKE, HE'S *DUMB*.

LOOK

URMF?

SMOOCH

UH... WE KNOW THAT *SOME-THING* SCARED SCOOBY, AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN A GHOST--

--*AND* THE GHOST'S NAME IS STELLA HOUSTON!

THAT'S RIGHT

STELLA HOUSTON WAS A WILD WEST SHOW QUEEN WHO BUILT THIS RANCH WHEN SHE RETIRED BACK IN THE 1890S.

"STELLA AND HER HORSE, ZENOBIA, USED TO PERFORM RIDING TRICKS FOR THE CUSTOMERS HERE.
"HER BUSINESS PARTNER, SISSY HAWGSHANK, WAS MIGHTY SMART--
"--SHE EVEN MADE UP A SPECIAL SHOE FOR ZENOBIA, WITH TWO BARS RUN ACROSS IT TO HELP THE HORSE CLIMB STAIRS IN THEIR ACT--
DAGNABIT, KEN! DON'T GO TELLING OUR PROBLEMS TO MY FRIENDS! CAN'T YOU LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE?
NO, STETSON, I EXPECT I CAN'T.
NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE! GOOD GOING, VELMA
YEAH, NICE INTERROGATION TECHNIQUE!

AT LEAST KEN PAYS ATTENTION TO ME. ALL YOU EVER DO IS EAT!

DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, WHEN I EAT? WE ROGERSES ARE, LIKE, TACITURN. ASK MY COUSIN.

D'RUTHER NOT TALK ABOUT THAT

TO ME, FOOD IS LOVE.

SO GO DATE A SCOOBY SNACK!

COOL IT, YOU TWO! THERE'S STILL A MYSTERY--

WHOO-OOOH

WHAT'S THAT NOISE!?!

I-I-IT'S THEM! THE GHOSTS!

BAM!

WHOOO

GIT OFF THIS PROPERTY!

HAHAHA

HAHA

HAHA

THEY-- DISAPPEARED!

COME ON, GANG! LET'S CHECK THE SCENE FOR CLUES!

DID THEY LEAVE TRACKS?

LOOK! TWO SETS OF TRACKS, AND BOTH ARE SISSY HAWGSHANK'S SPECIAL DESIGN!

WHERE DO THEY LEAD?

THEY FOLLOW THE *BRIDLE PATH!* NOT TOO GHOSTLY, HUH?

EXCEPT THAT THE TRACKS *DISAPPEAR* RIGHT HERE!

DISAPPEAR? LIKE, THAT'S A CONCEPT I CAN *HANDLE!*

SPLIT UP, GANG. DAPHNE AND I CAN CHECK THE OLD *MILL*; YOU GUYS FOLLOW THE *BRIDLE* PATH.

HELP! GHOSTS!

GO ON, VELMA AND SHAGGY! WE'VE *GOT* THIS!

LIKE, YOU CAN *KEEP* IT!

GHOSTS! HELP! HELP!

MR. EVANS?!?

I SAW THEM! STELLA AND SISSY APPEARED TO ME!

THEY TOLD ME TO ABANDON THE RANCH, AND DISAPPEARED!

--LEAVING THEIR CLOTHES AND THE SPECIALLY-MADE HORSESHOES BEHIND?

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

WHOOOOOOOO

STELLA HOUSTON!

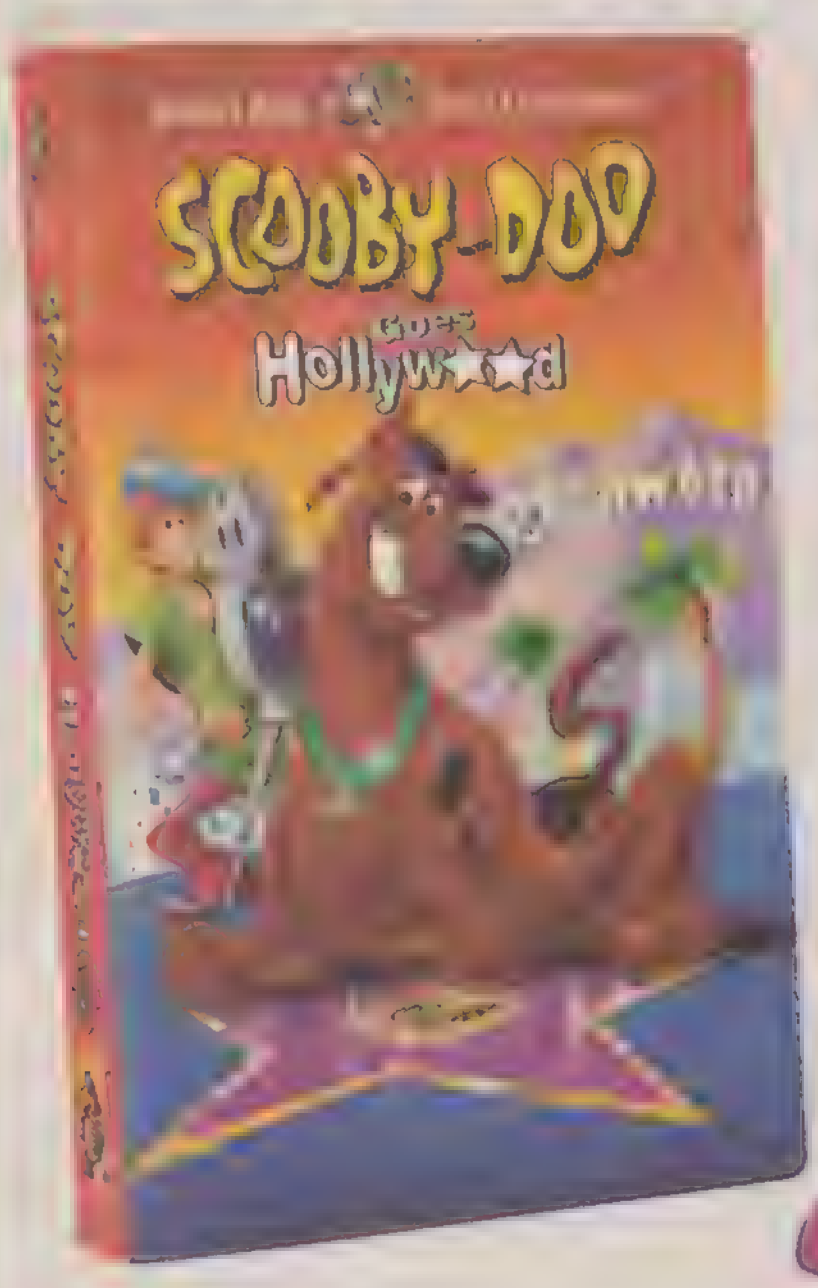
RUN!

SHORT! SHORT!

COME ON, MR EVANS! I'VE GOT A PLAN! IF WE CAN JUST GET TO THE BARN--

MR. EVANS?

Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?



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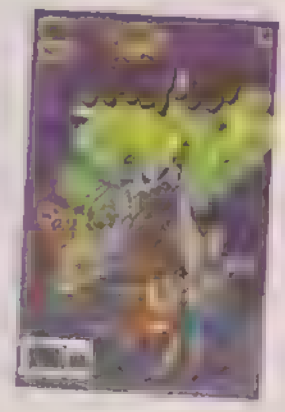

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BACK AT THE MAIN HOUSE..

WHY DON'T WE CALL THE *SHERIFF*?

IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO GET HAUNTED OFF YOUR LAND. WHY LOOK *FOOLISH* TO BOOT?

MAYBE WE SHOULD FORTIFY OUR NERVES, STETSON!

OR MAYBE WE *SHOULD* CALL A COP. ME AND SCOOBY HAVE INVESTIGATED *DOZENS* OF SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENONS--

--AND NOT *ONCE* HAS THERE EVER BEEN ONE *SHRED* OF PROOF THAT GHOSTS EXIST!

IT'S "PHENOMENA," BUT OTHERWISE SHAGGY'S CORRECT.

THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME!

>CHOMP!<
>CHOMP!<

EXCUSE ME COUSIN BUT I NEED MORE FORTIFYIN'!

COOKIES

LOOK OUT!

KRRRASH!

HUH? LIKE, A *FORTUNE* COOKIE JAR!

IT'S AN OFFER FROM WARMER SISTERS-SEVEN FLAGS TO BUY THE RANCH FOR A MILLION DOLLARS! THEY WANT TO BUILD A NEW AMUSEMENT PARK HERE!

THAT MEANS THE *GHOSTS* ARE REALLY--

BOOM!

BOIL MY CABBAGE! SOMEBODY SHOT OUT THE LIGHTS!

LEMME JUST LIGHT THIS LANTERN...

YIIIIII!!

IT'S SISSY HAWGSHANK!

ZONK!

THAT'S IT! I'M CLEARING OUT!

HOLD OFF ON THAT DECISION, STETSON!

HYAHH!

HYAHH!

THERE WAS AN OFFER TO BUY THE RANCH, AND STETSON ROGERS DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT. SO WHO WOULD BE TRYING TO MAKE STETSON ABANDON THE RANCH?

HIS PARTNER, MR. EVANS!

SO WHEN WE FOUND MR EVANS AT THE OLD MILL, HE WAS JUST CHANGING OUT OF HIS SISSY HAMSHANK COSTUME!

AND THAT'S WHY STELLA HOUSTON WAS CHASING US ALONE! "SHE" WAS KEN!

HOW'D YOU KNOW?

KEN GAVE YOU AWAY WHEN HE TOLD ME HOW GREAT DANES PACK A WALLOP.

I HADN'T SAID WHAT HAPPENED, SO IT HAD TO BE KEN WHO SCARED SCOOBY IN THE FIELD.

REAH!

IT WAS YOU WHO PULLED THE FAKE SHOES OFF ALONG THE BRIDLE PATH, TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THE HORSES DISAPPEARED.

COUNT YOUR *BLESSINGS*, ROGERS. IT WOULD HAVE *WORKED*, IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR *COUSIN* AND HIS FRIENDS!

OH, SURE, KEN. TOO BAD I DON'T DATE *IDIOTS*. AT LEAST NOT MALICIOUS, *CRIMINAL* IDIOTS.

POLICE

SO YOU WERE JUST STRINGING KEN ALONG TO GET INFORMATION?

NOT EXACTLY, NORVILLE I MEAN, *LOOK* AT HIM.

BUT WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT, I WENT STRAIGHT TO THE PHONE AND CALLED THE SHERIFF.

WELL, CRACK MY CORN! I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU, LITTLE COUSIN--

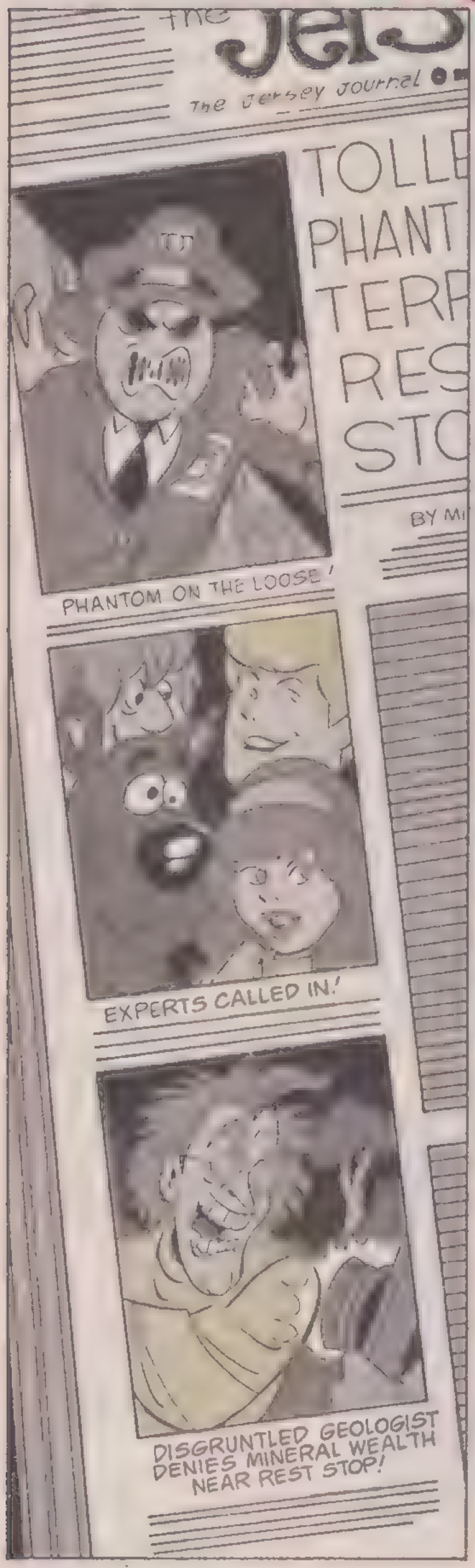
--BUT YOU KNOW HOW GOLDURN *TACITURN* WE ROGERSES ARE!

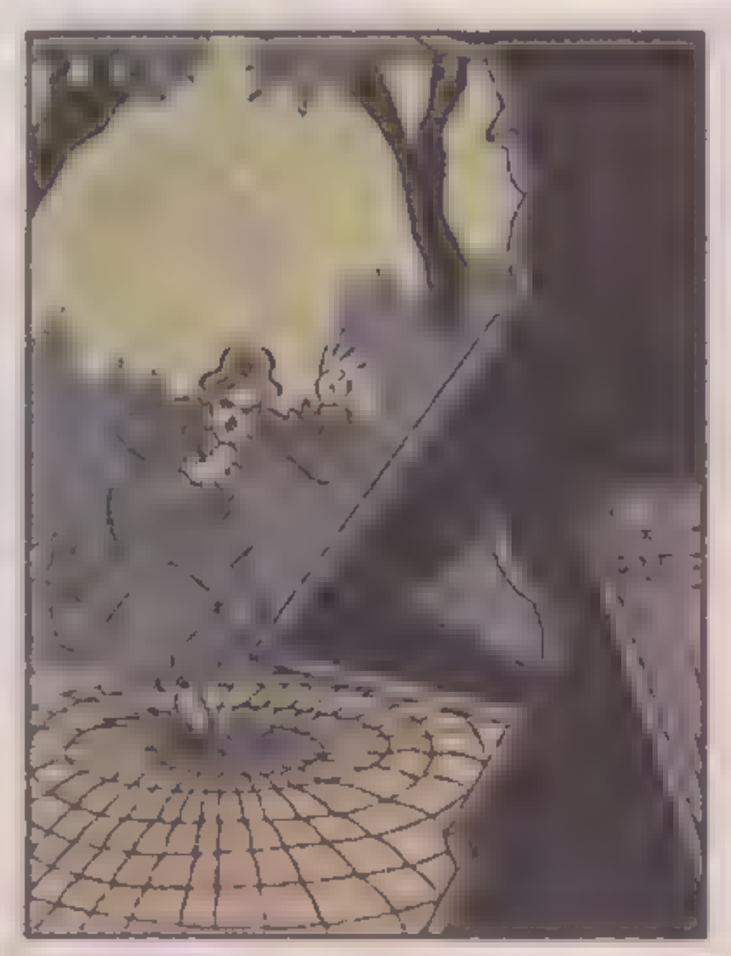
SEE? TOLDJA. -*TACITURN*!

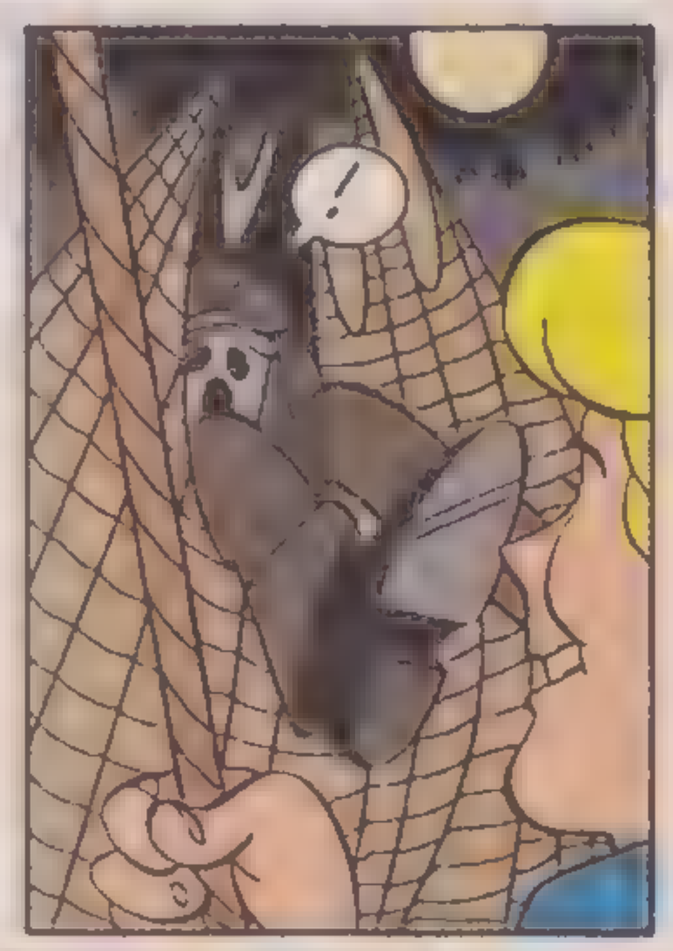
THE END

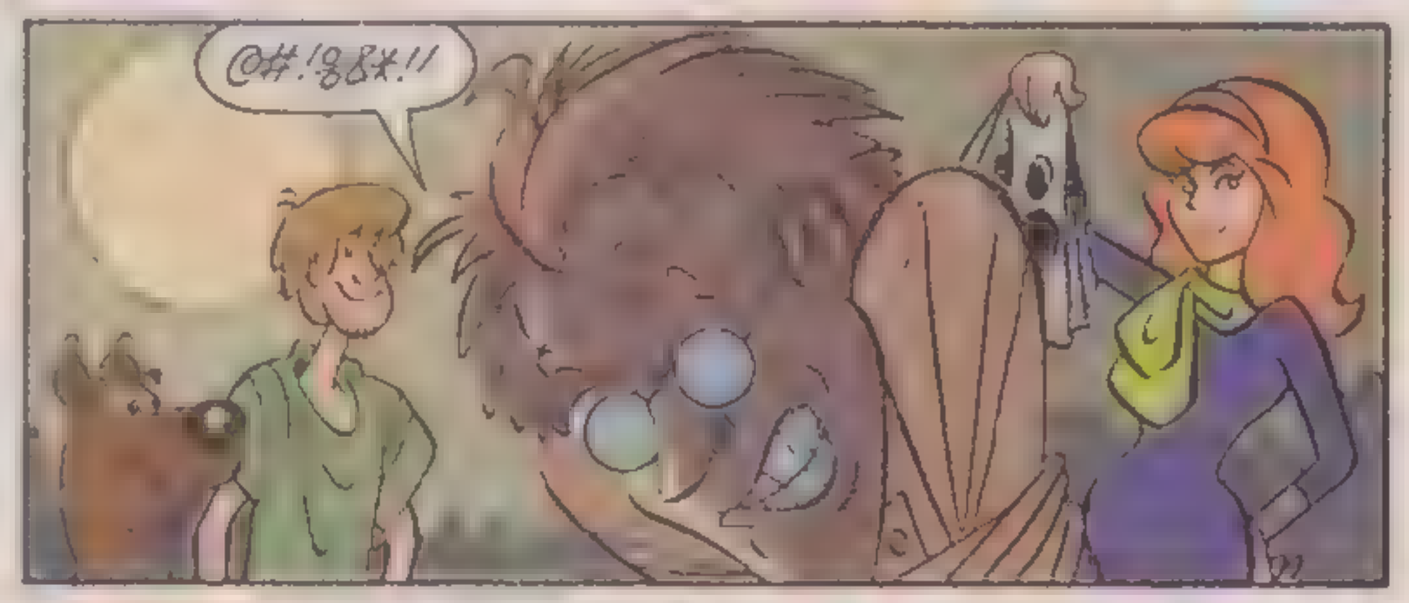
SCOOBY-DOO -IN- REPEAT OFFENDER

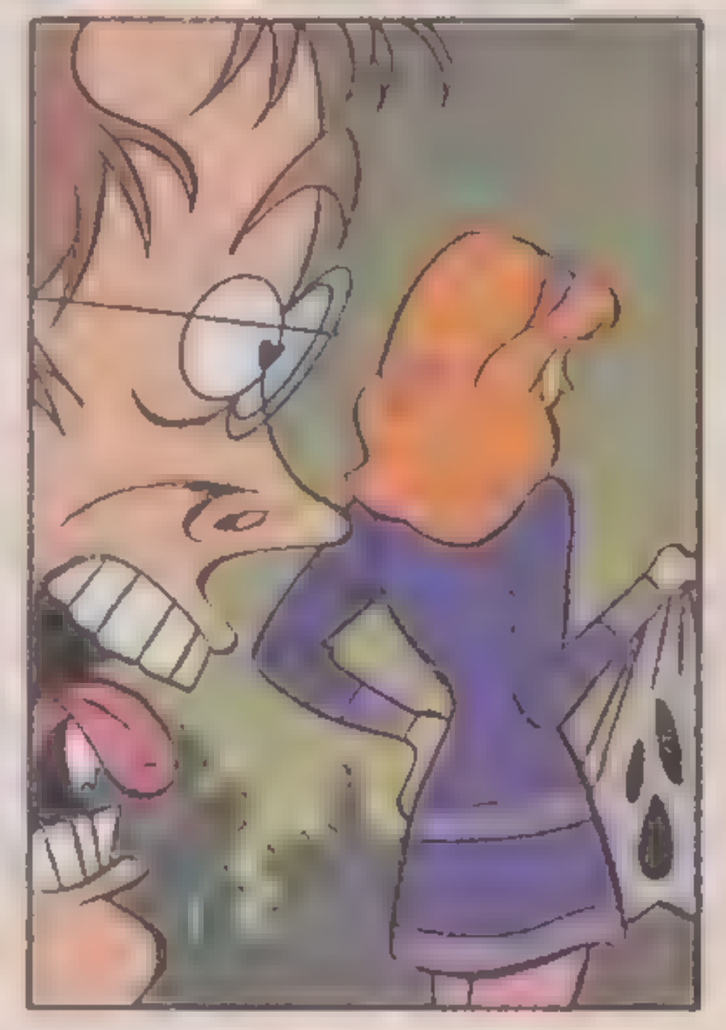
STORY: CHRIS DUFFY
ART + LETTERS: TIM HARKINS
COLORING: PATRICIA MULVIHILL
EDITS: BRONWYN TAGGART

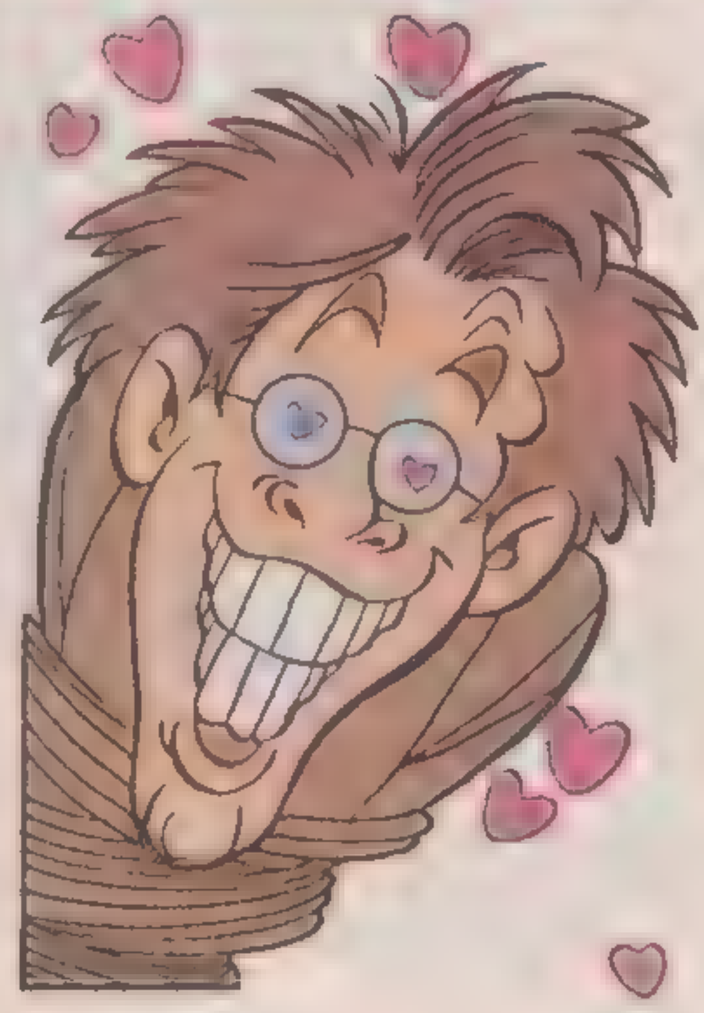


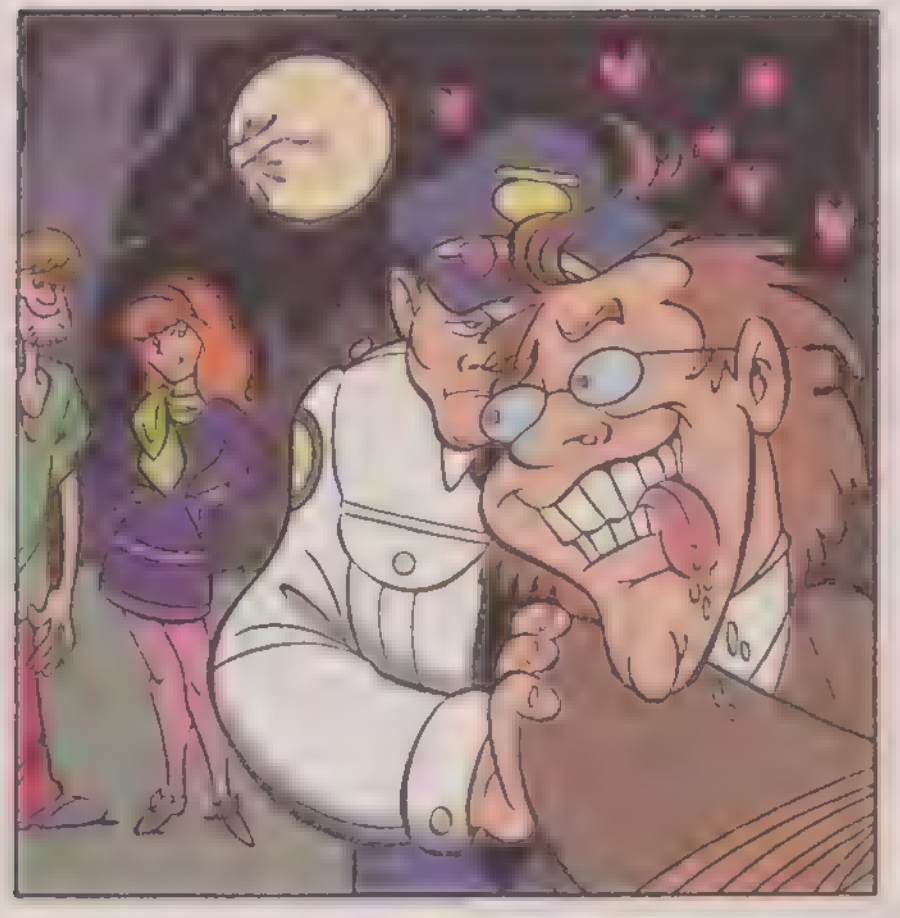


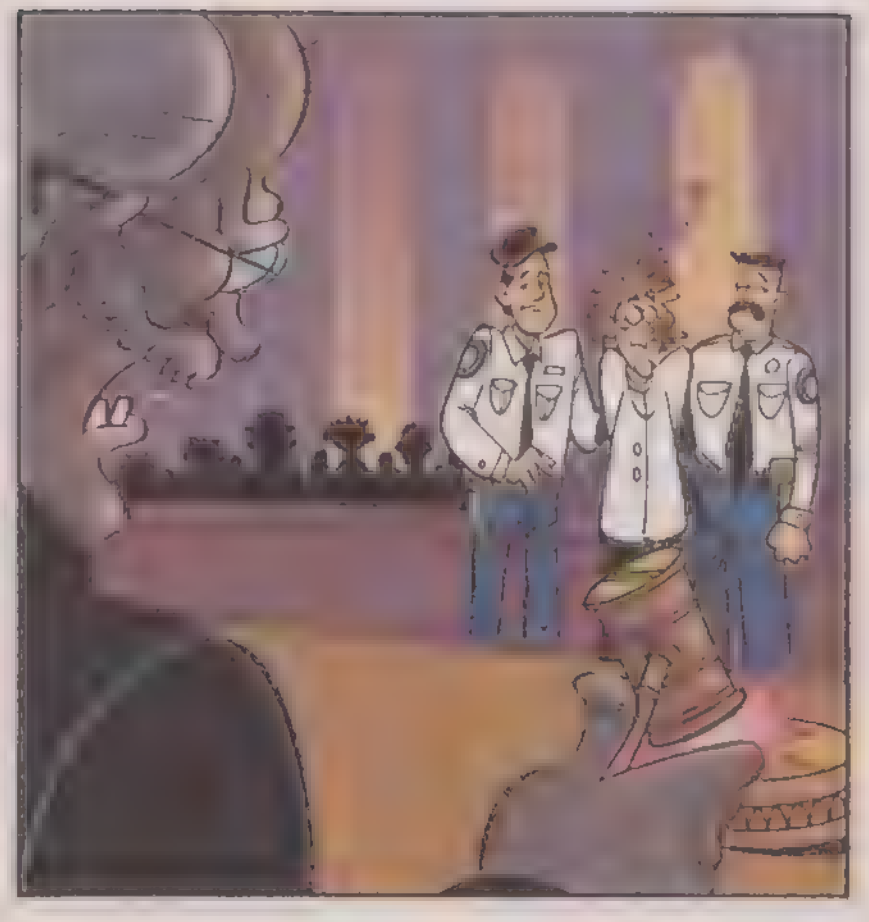




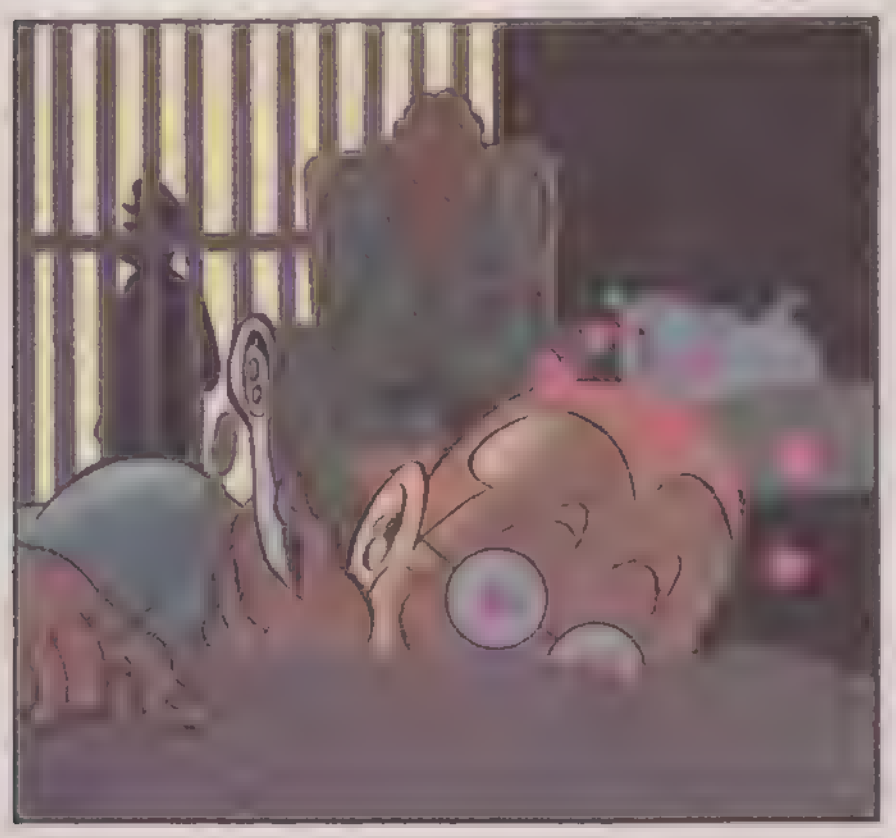






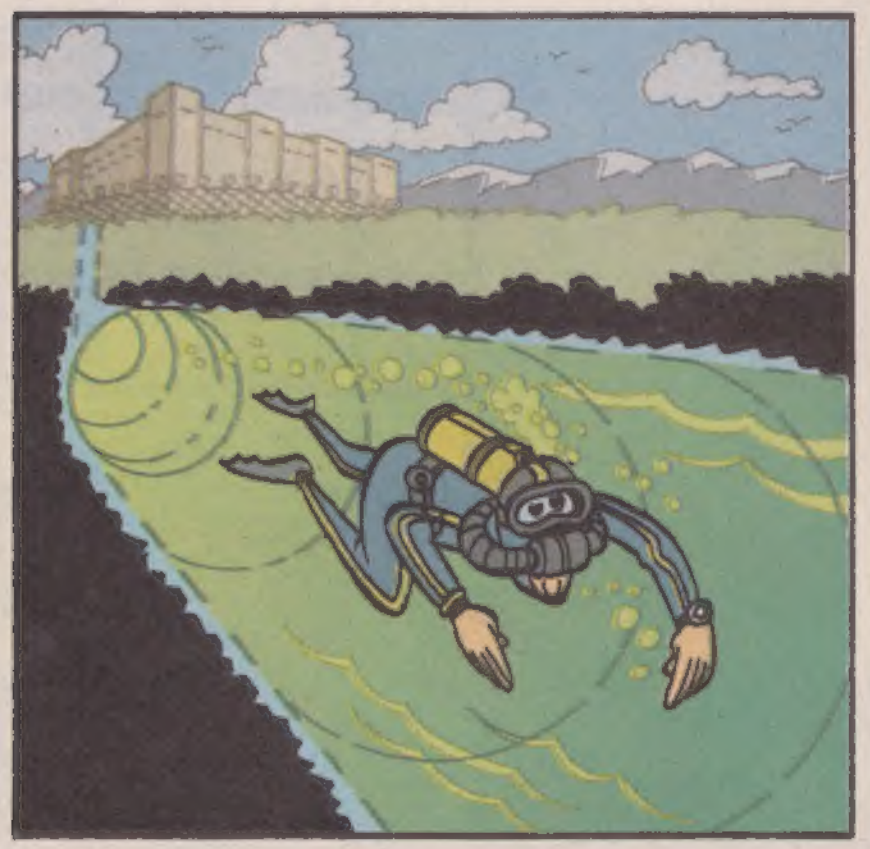


MYSTERY INC MASHES MONSTER MOB



MUNSEE MONITOR
RAMPAGING ROSE MONSTER HAS CITY TERRIFIE
MYSTERY INC ON THE JOB!

the Peoria
POST
RAMPAGING
CANDY BOX
MONSTER
HAUNTS CITY
TO HELP



THE SKOKIE
SENTINEL
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ON THE LOOSE
MYSTERY INC. AND DOG
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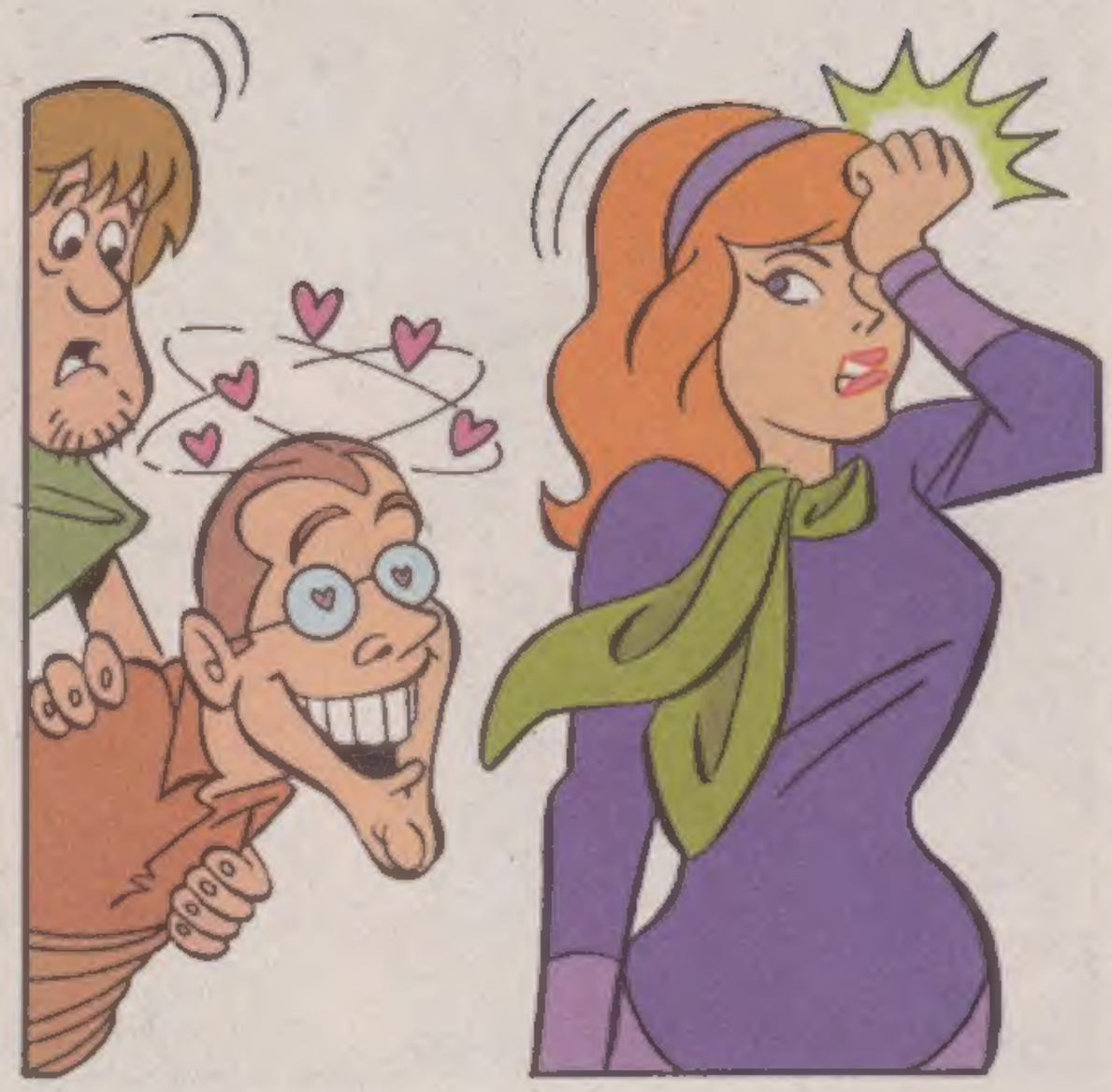

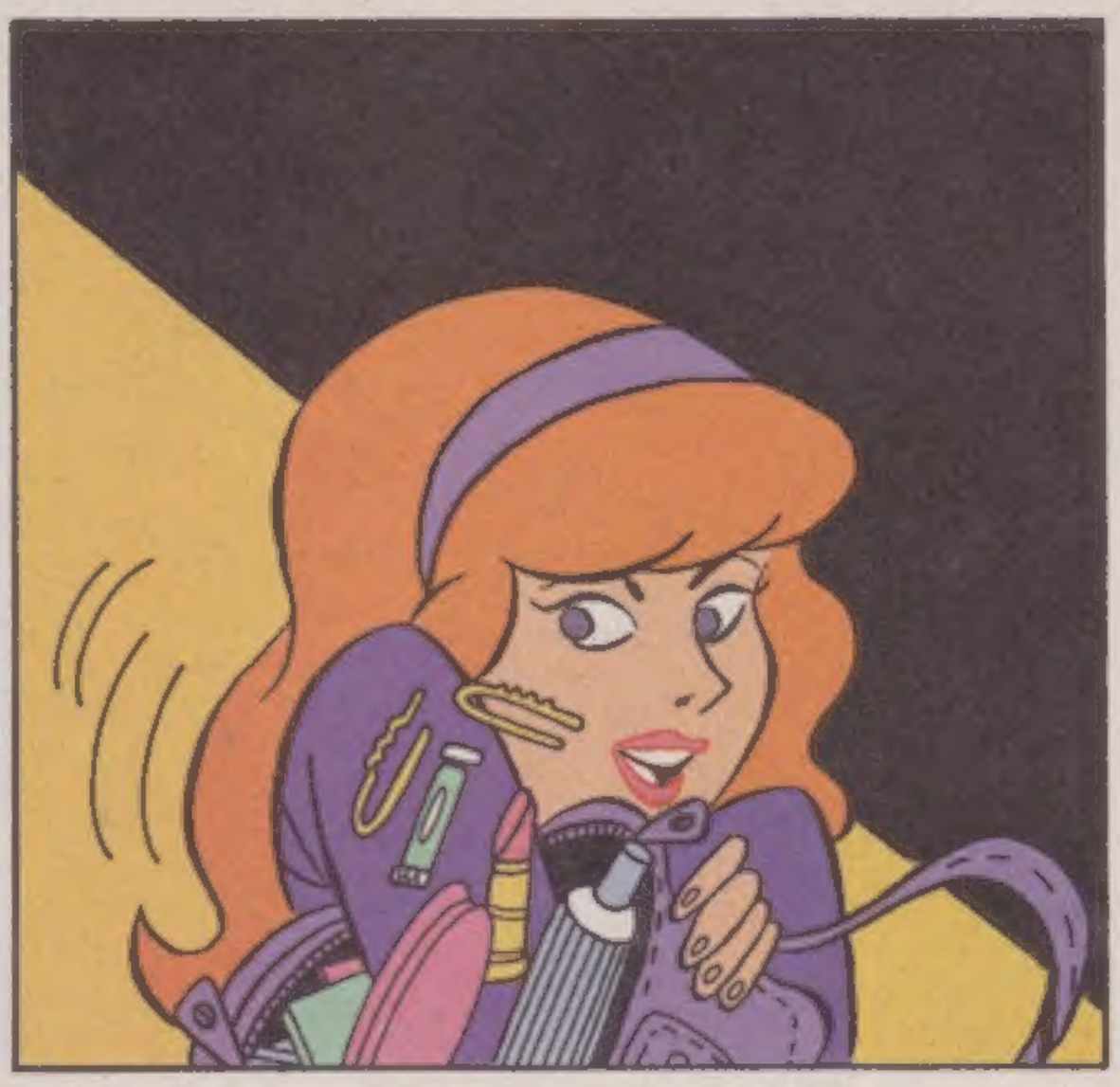

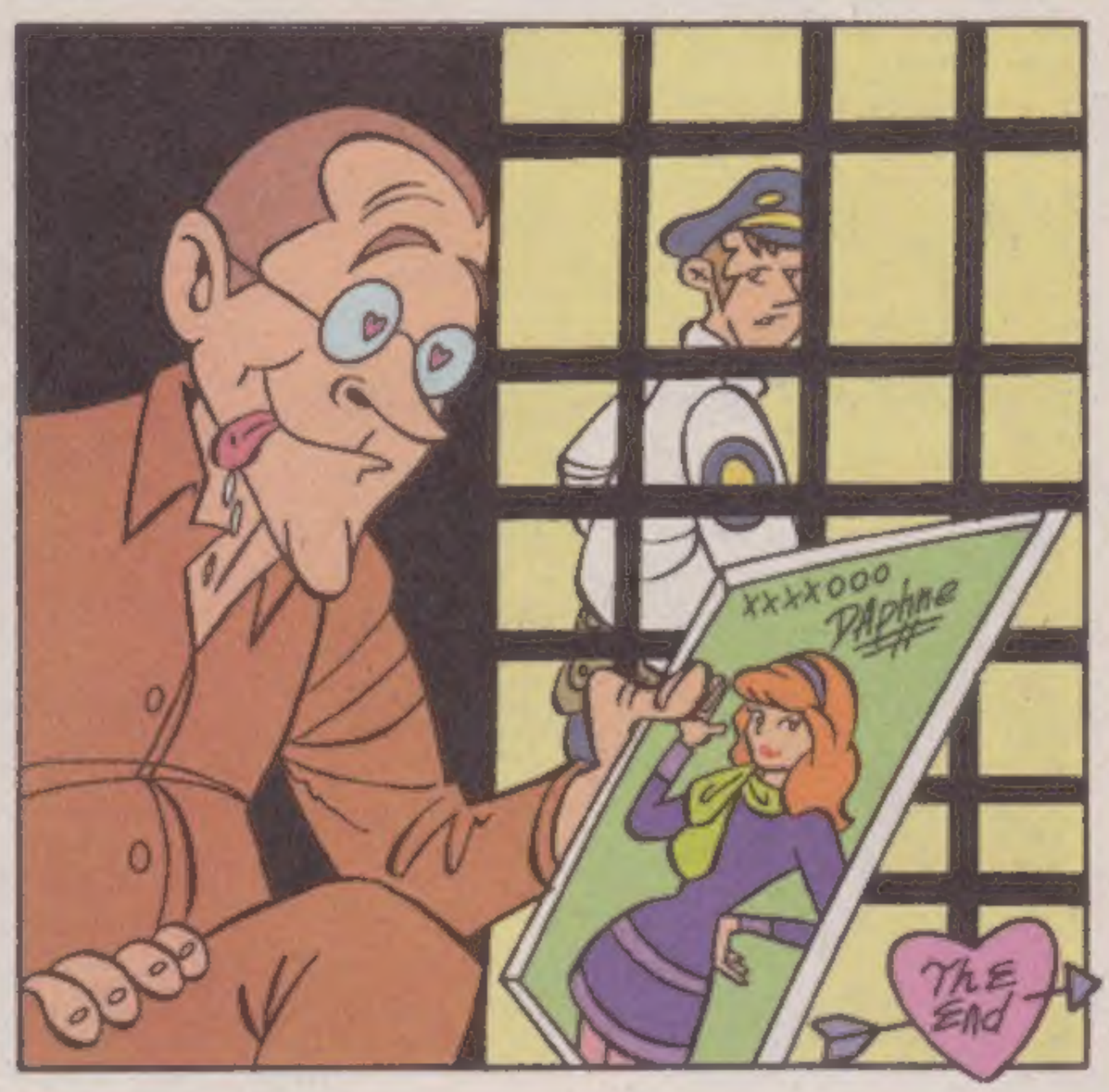
xxxxooo
Daphne
THE END

SCOOBY'S MYSTERY MAIL

Jinkies! "Scooby's Mystery Mail" *received* ***26*** *letters this month! Too bad we can't share every single one with you, but here are three from some of Scooby's youngest fans.* ***(Kid Power Rules!)***

Patty Schiely
Westlake Village, CA

Dear DC,

I just bought your Scooby-Doo book. I am a big fan. It says in my book that this is the 2nd issue. My sister and I would like to buy one of the first issues. Could we buy two of your first issues by mail? I have enclosed [some money]. THANK YOU!

Okay, Patty, we're really glad you like our comics so much. The ***best*** *way to get a copy of Scooby-Doo #1 is to call your local comics shop and ask if they have "back issues." (That's what comics or magazines from a few months ago are called.) If they don't have the comic you want, ask them to please order it for you—they should still be able to get it. If you don't know where your nearest comics shop is, just call* ***1-888-COMIC-BOOK*** *(that's 1-888-266-4226). It's a free call, and the locator service is free, too. (P.S. We're sending your money back to you.)*

Now, everybody else: Here is what is okay to send to "Scooby's Mystery Mail": letters; drawings; photos; postcards; e-mail. Please do NOT send money or checks, 'cause we just make the comics, we don't sell 'em! Thanks.

▼

Ryan Powell
Cedar Rapids, IA

Dear Scooby and Gang,

How are you? I'm glad you got your own series, and I hope it goes over 25 issues. You are one of my favorite H-B characters. I just hope that the dog that I can't mention will be in future issues.

Thanks for your good wishes, Ryan. You must be a pretty sophisticated collector to think about "H-B characters" and how many issues we might run. Are you sure you're only 11? And thanks for not mentioning you-know-who by name; every time somebody says "Scrappy-Doo," our associate editor Jim Spivey gets a nosebleed. OOOPS! Did I just say it? Sorry, Jim! Tip your head back, and I'll go get a tissue.

◆

LETTER OF THE MONTH:

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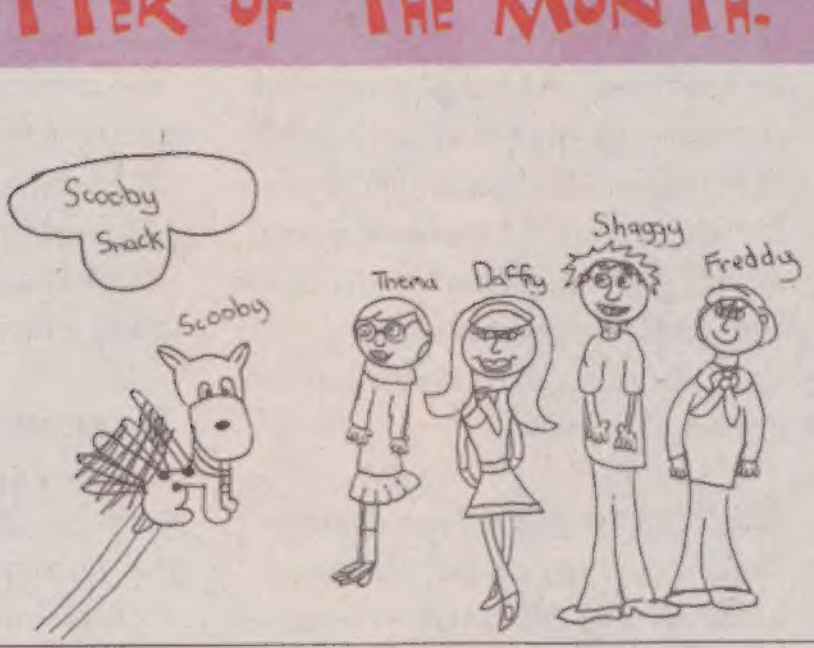

Dear Scooby,
I really like your comics.
There really cool! I have a big stuffed Scooby just like you. When is your birthday? Do you like soveling myestaies? Your my favorite dog star, too. I wanted to know if your have any food lock so know one eats your food? Well, Bye now!!!

From: Megan Costantini
Trenton N.J. Age 8

From Megan Costantini. Thanks, Megan! The whole Scooby Gang thinks you're great!

NEXT ISSUE:

Fasten your seatbelts! It's going to be a bumpy ride when the Mystery, Inc. gang gets snowed in at O'Hare airport, their luggage gets lost, and Shaggy and Scooby end up *flying* a cargo jet with an escaped snow leopard *and* a monster on board! Meet "The Ogre of O'Hare" in next month's *Scooby-Doo!*

This month's cover was drawn by Yuri Bartoli, who just walked into our office one day and we gave him a job. And it was colored by Trish Mulvihill, who can have a job with us any time.

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COWGIRLS

The real cowhand era lasted only about twenty years, from the mid-1860s to the mid-1880s. This was the time when huge herds of cattle grazed on the open range and were taken on **trail drives**. A trail drive was when cattle were moved from the western ranches to the railroad centers where they would be shipped to markets in the East. Trail drives could cover hundreds of miles and take **two or three months**. Although women on the Western frontier did many jobs that were usually considered "men's work" at that time, they did not go on trail drives. Most working cowhands really were **cowboys**. Like Stella Huston and Sissy Hawgshank in this month's main Scooby-Doo story, most of the early cowgirls we know about today were either entertainers or outlaws—or a little of both.

As the West was settled by non-Indians, the great trail drives ended, but people were still intrigued by what cowboys stood for: courage, independence, and self-reliance. Westerners like Buffalo Bill Cody began a new kind of entertainment, the "Wild West Show," to display the cowhands' skills in riding, roping, and shooting. **Women who had these skills were a popular part of the shows—the first cowgirls.**

The most famous cowgirl of all is **Annie Oakley**. She was born in Ohio in 1860 and learned to shoot a gun when she was only eight years old. By the time she was nine she was shooting small game to help feed her family—she had *eight* brothers and sisters! Annie started selling the game to hotels in Cincinnati, and made so much money that she paid off the mortgage on her family's farm by the time she was 16. That year her family went to see a show that featured a professional shooter named Frank Butler. Annie challenged him to a contest and beat him, and that started her own career as a famous sharpshooter. Annie toured all over the world with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, displaying her skill with pistols, rifles, and shotguns. She could shoot a dime out of the hand of an assistant, or hit a playing card thrown into the air 90 feet away. Her friend Chief Sitting Bull gave her the name "Little Sure Shot." Although Annie didn't grow up on the Western frontier, her sharpshooting skills made her a perfect "cowgirl."

Calamity Jane was another sharpshooting cowgirl, but she really *did* live the tough Western life. She grew up in mining camps in Montana, Wyoming, and Utah during the 1860s. Her real name was Martha Jane Canary, but she got her nickname from her famous warning: "If you scorn Martha Jane Canary, you court calamity!" Jane wore men's clothes and did men's work, like driving freight wagons. She became an expert with rifles, revolvers, and horses, and lived in many places all around the West. Because of her knowledge of the frontier, Calamity Jane served as a scout for Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer. Jane also helped nurse gold miners in Deadwood, South Dakota through a smallpox epidemic in 1878, and became the heroine of some novels about the West. She spent the last years of her life appearing in Wild West shows and telling stories about her days on the frontier.

Not much is known about the "Bandit Queen" **Belle Starr** except that she lived with outlaws, married outlaws, and was a robber and a horse and cattle thief in Texas and Oklahoma from the 1870s until 1886, when she was gunned down in an ambush. **But isn't that enough?**

Today's famous cowgirls continue to be entertainers (such as **Dale Evans**, who wrote the famous "cowboy" song *Happy Trails*) or rodeo stars who display their riding and roping skills. Like the cowhands of the past, they *still* stand for **courage, independence, and self-reliance.**

WHAT'S UP?

By BRONWYN T.